



THE GEOMETRIC LINES OF MARK SEVER'S NEWEST HOUSE ON THE SLOPES OF BLACK MOUNTAIN IN CAREFREE ARE A PERFECT COMPLEMENT TO THE RUGGED SITE.

# a home for today

**HOUSE + HOME** Hawksnest house incorporates modern touches with environment

BY REBECCA LARSEN PHOTOS BY RICK BRAZIL

Mark Sever designs and builds contemporary houses because "I live for the right now."

"The old styles are nice and beautiful, but I want to see what I can do now," says Sever, a Scottsdale architect.

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A TRIANGULAR FIREPLACE CAN BE SEEN FROM SEVERAL ANGLES IN THE LIVING SPACES OF THE HOUSE. MOUNTAIN VIEWS ARE EVERYWHERE, TOO.



**MOST CABINETS IN THE HOUSE ARE FRONTED WITH AN EXOTIC AFRICAN HARDWOOD — BLOCK MOTTLED ANIGRE. THE GRAIN OF MANY DOORS HAS A WATERFALL PATTERN WITH THE VENEERS FOR EVERY DOOR TAKEN FROM THE SAME LOG.**







THIS CRYSTAL-CLEAR, NEGATIVE-EDGE POOL SEEMS TO HANG IN SPACE OVER THE TOWN OF CAREFREE.



TROPICAL BROWN GRANITE DOMINATES THE BATHROOMS AND IS USED FOR SHOWERS AND SINKS AS WELL AS COUNTERTOPS. CABINETS, AGAIN, ARE MOTTLED ANIGRE.





His latest house, in the Hawksnest section of Black Mountain in Carefree, has all those "right now" touches.

It took 2 1/2 years to build this home that's almost a football-field long and stands on a 3.4-acre site on the northeast side of the mountain. Almost every facet of this \$5.65 million house was precision-crafted, from the kitchen cabinets to the plumbing system to the frames for doorways.

The house is designed to form two triangles with their bases almost touching. A long gallery runs between the triangles and the triangle theme is repeated everywhere — in the central fireplace, on the outdoor railings, on the frame of the front door, and on the edging of granite countertops in bathrooms and the kitchen. One giant triangle holds the living spaces of the house, while the other is made up of the bedroom spaces.

"At three points, the roof has exaggerated radical cantilevers that come to acute points," Sever says. "There are big overhangs that hide the house from the sun in summer."

From the outside the house seems like a perfect match to the dominant earth tones on Black Mountain. The roof is a black-brown metal that blends with the lava-strewn areas of the mountain. The lighter golden brown stone slabs that cover the walls blend with the color of the granite boulders on the mountain. The house stands beneath a pile of boulders called Copper Peak.

"The exterior," says Sever, "is covered in Tivoli Stone, a natural and man-made combination that is 70 percent real stone. It took a year and a

half just to come up with the right color. We kept putting stone on and taking it off."

Among the high-tech touches that make the house cutting edge is a chlorine-free whole house water system that serves the swimming pool as well. Also, there is a giant boiler that pumps hot water for the whole house, a special panel that allows you to turn off the water to a single fixture in a bathroom or the kitchen without disturbing water going to other parts of the house, and a special vault that holds heating and water equipment. The house is broken into eight mechanical sections so you can heat and/or air condition just one segment at a time.

Most cabinets in the house are fronted with an exotic African hardwood — block mottled anigre. The grain of each door has what is called a waterfall pattern with the veneers taken from the same log.

"The millwork is really over the top," Sever says.

In the kitchen these cabinets are topped with slab granite in a tropical brown pattern. All the outlets for kitchen appliances are hidden under the cabinets. The appliances are for the most part sleek brushed stainless steel from Miele.

Travertine with bamboo hardwood inserts lines most floors. The fireplace and all the fire pits outdoors are filled with black lava gravel and the flames flash out of the stones like fire in the crater of a volcano.

Every room maximizes the views. In the 1,700 square-foot master suite, for example, one bank of windows looks out on the town of Carefree below

while the back windows look up at Copper Peak and mountain slopes.

"You can lie in your bed and watch the sun come up out of one window and the sun go down on the other side," Sever says.

The closet-dressing room seems large enough for an entire family with armoire style cabinets and a huge island of drawers.

"Everything is behind doors," Sever says. "You can be as messy as you want. Just open a door and stuff it in."

Tropical brown granite dominates the bathrooms and is used for showers and sinks as well as countertops. In the master suite, the shower has two Pharo "shower towers" with multiple body jets and valves that can change the water temperature one degree at a time. Cast glass was used for accents throughout the bathrooms.

Besides the natural views, the vista of the negative-edge pool seen through living room windows creates stunning scenery. It makes you feel as if you would fall off the edge of the house if you took a dip in the pool.

A dramatic travertine walkway or an in-house elevator can take you downstairs to a six- to eight-car garage that is fully heated and air conditioned and has a porcelain-tile floor. It can also serve as a game room. Nearby are a cedar-lined wine cellar and a home theater.

This 7,507 square-foot home has four bedrooms, six baths, a den/study and formal dining room.

For more information, call Tom Locati at (480) 585-7070 or (480) 600-2345. ■

**“ YOU CAN LIE IN YOUR BED AND WATCH THE SUN COME UP OUT OF ONE WINDOW AND THE SUN GO DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE. ”**

— MARK SEVER

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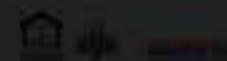
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